



salamander, spring peeper, tiger salamander, water mites, western chorus frog, Woodhouse's toad, yellow mud turtle

Locations in Iowa

Temporary water supplies may form anywhere in the state.

Bibliography

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001. *Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

temporary water supplies

Characteristics

Temporary water supplies such as flooded fields, puddles, and vernal pools are formed only when conditions are favorable from weather events like rainfall or snowmelt. They may last a few days to a few weeks. They can be formed anywhere that water can spread from its normal channel or can be held in a depression in the landscape.

Recreation

Very little recreation is associated with these temporary sites except waterfowl hunting and wildlife observation and/or photography.

What Lives Here?

Temporary water supplies are important because they are utilized by many species for feeding, resting, and reproduction. Some fish, frogs, salamanders, and insects rely on these areas as a place to mate, to lay eggs, and for the development of the young. Development in these species must be rapid. If a pool should dry up or the flood waters recede before development is completed, the young generally will die. Those individuals that reach the adult stage often move elsewhere to live.

Organisms found in this CD:

American coot, American toad, American wigeon, blue-spotted salamander, central newt, Cope's gray treefrog, crawfish frog, cricket frog, dragonfly, earthworm, fisher spider, Fowler's toad, gray treefrog, great plains toad, greater yellowlegs, leech, mallard, mosquito, northern leopard frog, plains leopard frog, plains spadefoot, red-sided and eastern garter snakes, sedge wren, semipalmated plover, semipalmated sandpiper, smallmouth